

July 2014

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Bond sidewalk project gets under way. See page 2.



Towne Players Present
'Disney High School Musical Jr.' See page 3.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

July 22: Town Council
meeting (7 p.m.)

July 29: Town Council work
session (6 p.m.)

Aug. 4: Town Council meet-
ing (7 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council
Chambers in building B at
Town Hall, 900 Seventh
Ave. Town Council regular
meetings are recorded and
broadcast (not live) on
GTV 11 (Time Warner 11,
AT&T U-verse 99).



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GARNER UPDATE

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Police Department Releases 2013 Annual Report Online

The Garner Police Department has released its 2013 annual report.

in order to maintain its status as a professional law enforcement agency.

In a message to citizens, Chief Brandon Zuidema listed a number of significant accomplishments for 2013. Most notably, in November 2013, the department had a successful onsite inspection by assessors from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The organization reviewed documents, toured facilities, got community feedback and rode along with personnel as a means of ensuring the department's continued compliance with the more than 460 standards it meets and often exceeds



The chief also cited "our continuation of our mandatory fitness program for our sworn staff, our continued expansion of the Police Athletics/Activities League (PAAL), our foray into social media and the official start of planning for a new police station to be located at 912 Seventh Ave. in a former medical office building purchased by the Town."

The Police Department's annual report can be read online at garnerpd.org.



You can follow
the Garner
Police Department on Face-
book (GarnerPo-
lice) and Twitter
(@GarnerPolice).

Council Passes \$26.6 Million Operating Budget for FY 2014-15

The Town Council unanimously approved a \$26.6 million operating budget for the Town at its regular meeting on June 17.

The budget includes a municipal property tax rate of \$0.50 per \$100 valuation, a one-penny increase. The rate increase primarily will go toward funding three new firefighters for Garner Volunteer Fire-Rescue, Inc., and future-year equipment replacement.

The tax increase is expected to add \$17.75 to the Town's portion of the average Garner homeowner's property tax bill.

The budget also includes a provision to implement a new fire inspection fee of \$50 to recoup approximately \$45,000 from businesses. The Town will launch a public education effort to raise awareness of the fee.

Another notable element of the FY 2014-15 budget, which went into effect July 1, is the use of existing fund balance to pay the first installment of the Town's bond debt approved by voters in March 2013.

The Town continues to look for creative and innovative ways to provide quality services to citizens at a low cost.



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's "Great People in Garner" on GTVII (Time Warner 11, AT&T 99) and on demand at garnernc.gov and youtube.com/townofgarner.

Here's some news hot off the presses—or, actually, hot off the Internet: Garner has been named one of the top small cities (No. 7) in North Carolina.



That accolade, from CitiesJournal.com, is just the latest one to affirm that Garner is a great place to live, work and raise a family. We've had other similar accolades recently, including a couple from Movoto, a

national real-estate broker, and, of course, our All-America City designation last year.

We feel that one of the things that makes Garner a great place is the range of options for young people. In the summertime, the Town's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department offers an impressive array of camp options, including an award-winning youth theater camp that's the result of an innovative partnership with the Towne Players of Garner. This year's camp has just gotten under

way, and it will culminate in four performances of "Disney High School Musical Jr." at Garner Performing Arts Center Aug. 7-9 (see page 3 for more details). The theater camp's annual summer show is always one of the year's highlights at GPAC. I hope you'll be able to catch one of the performances.

Have a great rest of the summer.

Ronnie S. Williams
Ronnie S. Williams

TOWN OF GARNER BOND PROGRAM

Claymore Drive Sidewalk Project Gets Going

Work is well under way on the Claymore Drive/Coachman Drive/Buckingham Road sidewalk project.

The project connects the existing sidewalks along Aversboro Road and Timber Drive to South Garner Park with the installation of sidewalk along the south side of Claymore Drive from Aversboro Road to the park.

The sidewalk will connect to Timber Drive at Coachman Drive and run along the west side of Coachman to Buckingham Road. Sidewalk will also be installed on the northwest side of Buckingham from Coachman to Claymore.

Construction time on the \$150,000 project is approximately 120 days, which means a completion date in early to mid-September, depending on weather. Stewart Group Enterprises received the contract to do the project.



Workers complete a section of sidewalk on Claymore Drive near Aversboro Road Baptist Church as part of a bond-funded project to benefit the community.

In other news related to the bond program approved by voters in March 2013, construction should begin soon on a new police station to be located at 912 Seventh Ave. in a former medical office building pur-

chased by the Town at a discounted price.

For more information on the Garner Bond Program, visit garnerbonds.com.



Conference to Focus on Town's Economic Future

The Garner Chamber of Commerce's annual half-day Connect & Plug in the Future conference, which focuses on major developments affecting the town's economic climate and quality of life, will be held Aug 14 at the Grand Marquise Ballroom, located at 225 New Fidelity Court (just off U.S. 70 east) in Garner.

In addition to discussions of Garner's future, the conference will include plenty of opportunities for networking at a welcome luncheon and a post-conference reception and dinner. The cost for attending is only \$79 and includes lunch and dinner.

The schedule for the conference is as follows:

Noon - Registration and lunch
1-5 p.m. - Sessions

National Night Out Planned for Aug. 5 at White Oak Target

The Garner Police Department, in association with The National Association of Town Watch and Target, announces that the 31st Annual National Night Out will be held on Aug. 5. This year the Garner Police Department will once again partner with Target of Garner in hosting an event at the Target store located at White Oak Crossing, from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Garner Police, Garner Fire and Rescue, Wake County EMS and Wake Med will all be on hand to talk about crime prevention and ways to avoid unintentional injury. Target and other local businesses will be providing food and games.

For more information, or if you would like to see your community get more involved in events like this, please contact Garner Police Sgt. Chris Adams at (919) 773-6072 or cadams@garnernc.gov.

CONNECT

& plug in the future

5-6:30 p.m. - Reception and dinner

Sessions will include the following:

Emerging and Converging in Garner!

Hear from a panel of the region's experts how a Garner technology park at the former ConAgra site (now the Garner Technology Center) could leverage emerging and converging technologies to create economic opportunity greater than any we've ever seen in Garner.

What's Next at White Oak?

Can one store—Cabela's—really have the impact predicted? What

else is coming to White Oak? All this and more from Core Properties' Rich Barta, developer of White Oak.

Status of Garner Bond Projects

Last year, Garner voters overwhelmingly approved a \$35.7 million bond package. Are the bond projects on target? Are they on budget? Are they what's needed to take us to the next level?

Wake County: 3 Perspectives, 3 County Managers, 3 Decades of Leadership

A panel discussion will feature the Wake County managers who have served from 1982 through the present: Richard Stevens, David Cooke and Jim Hartmann.

To register for the conference, visit garnerchamber.com.

Towne Players to Present 'Disney High School Musical Jr.'

The Towne Players of Garner's production of "Disney High School Musical Jr." comes to Garner Performing Arts Center (742 W. Garner Road) with shows Aug. 7-9 at 8 p.m. as well as a 2 p.m. matinee on Aug. 9. Tickets will be available at the door and are \$15 (\$12 for students and seniors).

The production is based on a Disney Channel original movie. The performances will be the culmination of the 2014 summer youth theater camp at GPAC, which is made possible thanks to a partnership between the Towne Players and the Town's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. The camp received an Arts and Humanities Award in 2012 from the North Carolina Recreation and Park



Association and was one of the featured projects in Garner's successful All-America City application and presentation last year. The camp program is offered to young people ages 5 to 19.

To see the cast list, and to learn more about the Towne Players, please visit towneplayers.org.



You can follow Garner PRCR on Facebook and Twitter (@GarnerPRCR).



Stevens Receives Town's Top Service Award

Tim Stevens has won the 2014 James R. Stevens Service to Garner Award, an honor that was named for his father. He will be recognized at a ceremony held at the Aug. 19 Town Council meeting.

Stevens, a longtime sportswriter with the News & Observer who is a member of the N.C. High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame and the National Federation of State High School Associations Hall of Fame, helped create the award-winning Broadway Voices series at Garner Performing Arts Center. The series brings top-shelf Broadway talent to Garner for a fraction of the cost to see a performance on Broadway in New York City.

Stevens has supported the Garner Veterans Memorial Committee by writing articles to promote the memorial, and this year, he organized the inaugural Garner Veterans Memorial Salute to the Troops performance by forging a partnership among the memorial committee, the Town of Garner and Aversboro Road Baptist Church.

Last year, Stevens contributed material to Garner's written application to become an All-America City.

Stevens has resided in Garner his entire life. In high school, he began writing articles for the now-defunct Raleigh Times, often promoting Garner through his articles. In addition to his sportswriting career, Stevens has written a host



Tim Stevens (right) poses with Broadway singer Norm Lewis after Lewis' Broadway Voices performance at Garner Performing Arts Center this past February.

of plays, skits and articles and has been a guest speaker for many local churches and civic groups. He has contributed to several local churches by writing and directing plays on the history of their church or other topics.

Nominees for the James R. Stevens Service to Garner Award can be anyone who has made outstanding contributions to Garner over a period of years. Emphasis is placed on service rendered over an extended period of time rather than just what has been done in the preceding 12 months. Preference is given to nominees with 20-plus years of service, in keeping with James R. Stevens' tradition of service spanning decades.

Tim Stevens was selected by a panel of judges that included Town officials, a Garner Chamber of Commerce representative, a Stevens family member and other members of the community.

Stevens will receive an engraved plaque, and an engraved plate bearing his name will be added to the plaque honoring previous winners that is currently displayed at Town Hall.

For more information on the James R. Stevens Service to Garner Award, please contact Deputy Town Clerk Kim Moffett at (919) 773-4456 or kmoffett@garnernc.gov.

Town Departments Recognized for Safety Records

The Town of Garner received three safety awards from the N.C. Department of Labor last month. The following departments were recognized:

Garner Police Department—first-year silver award for days

away from work at least 50 percent below the industry average.

Administration, Finance and community services departments—second consecutive year gold award for rate of days away from work, restricted activity or job

transfer at least 50 percent below industry average.

Planning Department—28th consecutive year gold award for rate of days away from work, restricted activity or job transfer at least 50 percent below industry average.



Learn more about GPAC at garnerperformingartscenter.com.